

August 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming students and staff back to school in September. We know how important in-person education is on the overall health, well-being, and development of our children. This letter outlines important actions you can take to protect your children and family on return to school.

On August 13, 2021, the Province released the [COVID-19: Health, safety, and operational guidance for schools \(2021-2022\)](#), which provides a detailed description of the health and safety measures that school boards and schools will need to follow to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of students, families, and staff for the 2021-2022 school year.

Given that COVID-19 and the Delta variant are prevalent in our region, Peel Public Health has recommended [additional public health measures](#) to enhance the provincial recommendations. As parents and guardians, four of the actions you can take to support school safety this year are:

1) **Masks**

Students in Grades 1 to 12 are required to wear masks inside the school, including in hallways and during classes, and on the bus. Masks are also required outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained between different cohorts. Peel Public Health strongly recommends that school boards and private schools also require students in kindergarten (JK and SK) to wear masks while attending school in-person and while on a school bus. Please refer to your school's and/or school board's student masking policy for more details regarding JK and SK masking requirements.

2) **Daily On-site Screening Verification**

Complete the [COVID-19 school and child care screening](#) tool each day with your child to ensure that they pass the screening. Please ensure that you keep your child at home and follow the appropriate next steps as indicated by the screening tool if they do not pass the screening.

Peel Public Health recommends that schools verify each day that students, staff, and visitors pass the screening, especially during periods of increased risk (e.g., during/after an outbreak, after holidays, etc.). Please check with your school and/or school board for more information regarding the circumstances under which daily on-site screening verification will be undertaken at your school.

**Health
Services**

Office of the
Medical Officer
of Health

PO Box 667
RPO Streetsville
Mississauga, ON
L5M 2C2
tel: 905-799-7700

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3) Testing

If your child does not pass daily screening, they should not attend school. They should get tested immediately if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 and self-isolate in accordance with child guidance. If they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 but were exposed to someone who has COVID-19, they should follow the testing instructions as detailed on our website:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/symptoms/>.

Sincerely,



Lawrence C. Loh, MD, MPH, FCFP, FRCPC, FACPM (*he/his*)
Medical Officer of Health
Region of Peel